

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 1a depicts a series of test for an individual pixel in an image sensor in which the output from the series of test is plotted as signal level versus time. FIG. 1a also illustrates a representative output for a particular pixel that does not have a hopping pixel defect. FIG. 1b depicts a histogram for the data of the pixel shown in FIG. 1a which is a plot of the counts or frequency versus signal level. It shows that the normal dark signal obeys a Gaussian distribution and it has only one peak which means the pixel has only one signal level. FIGS. 1c and 1d show similar plots to those respectively in FIGS. 1a and 1b, but in this case an individual pixel has a hopping pixel defect. In FIG. 1d the hopping pixel has two peaks which represent two different signal levels. One is the normal dark signal level (about 372 counts) and the other one is the hopping signal level (about 386 counts). In this case, 8 digital counts equal to 1 millivolt. Therefore, the hopping magnitude is about 1.75 millivolt. --